



State of Arizona  
Department of Education  
Office of John Huppenthal  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT

Dear Education Colleagues:

In light of feedback from the field regarding a shortage of Kindergarten teachers, the Arizona Department of Education is temporarily reinstating the Early Childhood Rule (Option C) that allows teachers to qualify for the Early Childhood endorsement with three years full-time teaching experience in grades Birth-Grade 3 within the last ten years and a passing score on the Early Childhood Subject Knowledge exam. **Individuals who do not have three years of full time teaching experience prior to July 1, 2012 will only be able to apply under this option until October 1, 2014.**

Please keep in mind the Early Childhood Endorsement or Certificate is only required for Preschool and Kindergarten teachers. However, it is highly recommended that your 1st - 3rd Grade teachers take advantage of this one-time opportunity in the event they should find themselves in a Kindergarten classroom.

Individuals will need to take and pass either the NES (Test #101) or AEPA Early Childhood (Test #36) Subject Knowledge exam then submit the completed application for Certification, Verification of Teaching Experience form and a check or money order for \$60 to the Certification office **no later than September 30, 2014.**

The Certification Unit will no longer be able to work with individuals who do not have three years of full time teaching experience in Early Childhood prior to July 1, 2012 and want to qualify under Option C after September 30, 2014. If individuals do not submit their applications by September 30, 2014 they will be required to obtain the Early Childhood endorsement through either Option A or B.

Please contact Jan Pentek or Kasey Ohrns at 602-542-4000 if you have further questions.